April 2010

The ECHO

MOUNTAIN VIEW BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Volume 49 Number 4

Calendar Highlights

- ***3/28, Sun, 10:00 AM***
  Girl Scout Sunday
  Adult Discussion following service
- ***4/4, Sun 10:00 AM***
  April Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service
- ***4/5, Mon 7:30 PM***
  Religious Planning Mtg
- ***4/11, Sun 10:00 AM***
  Hanamatsuri/Hatsumairi
  11:30 AM
  Hanamatsuri Luncheon
- ***4/14, Wed 7:30 PM***
  Temple Board Mtg
- ***4/18, Sun, 10:00 AM***
  Adult Discussion following service
- ***4/25, Sun 10:00 AM***
  FDSTL Teacher's Conference
  NO Dharma School

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Stone Soup

By Reverend Dean Koyama

A Girl Scout named Risa gave the Buddhist Reading at last week's service. She told the story of Stone Soup and I would like to share this story for this month's Echo article.

An old tale adapted into various cultures, some versions use nails, an axe, wood or buttons instead of stones. One version goes like this:

A monk and his disciple were traveling through the country,, came upon a village and decided to spend the night. However, the villagers very unfriendly. So much so that many of them retreated into their homes as they saw the monks approach.

The monks discovered that this village had suffered—through famine, flood, drought, and war. In addition, the villagers worked hard but only for themselves. As a result, they were suspicious of each other as well as any strangers that came along.

The wise monk knew these villagers were unhappy. The young disciple asked his master what they could do to help this village. The wise monk told his young apprentice to gather some wood to make a fire.

Our Temple's Reputation Keeps Growing

By Glenn Kitasoe

The 750th Memorial was an impressive event put on by Coast District, of which Mountain View Buddhist Temple is a part. This was a national and international event, delegates and temple members came from all parts of the United States, Canada, and even a Minister from Nepal who traveled over 36 hrs to get here.

The scope of the event was amazing—hundreds of delegates and ministers spent half the week tending to the national business of the BCA, and then the weekend was spent learning about Jodo Shinshu Buddhism and witnessing a phenomenal service. Over 1,400 people were at the Sunday Service alone, and it was standing room only.

It was quite an event but what I want to point out was Mountain View Temple members were right in the middle of it.

april 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		May S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		*1* 9:00 AM Senior activity/crafts 6:30 PM Taiko Senior Activity/ Lake Tahoe	*2* 4:30 PM Calligraphy class	*3* 9:00 AM Bile Duct Cancer Walk/Shoreline Park 1:00 PM Memorial Service
4 8:30 AM Morning chanting 10:00 AM Sunday Service/Shotsuki Hoyo Service 11:00 AM Dharma School 11:30 AM YBA Meeting 12:00 PM Taiko 12:15 PM YBA/YBA Hall 5:30 PM Arlene Tahara/ Sangha Hall/gym	*5* 11:00 AM Senior Activity comm. meeting 7:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Kendo 7:30 PM Religious planning meeting	*6* 6:00 PM Taiko 7:00 PM Shodo Kai	*7* 1:00 PM BWA/ manju making/ Sangha Hall 7:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Scouts & parents 7:30 PM Tri-City Youth Group meeting	*8* 8:00 AM BWA manju making/ Sangha Hall 9:00 AM Senior activity/crafts 6:30 PM Taiko	*9* 4:30 PM Calligraphy class 7:00 PM Fuji Club ABA meeting/ conf. room & YBA Hall7:00pm	*10* 11:00 AM Memorial service 3:00 PM Scouts/ overnight
11 8:30 AM Morning chanting 10:00 AM Hanamatsuri/ Hatsumairi Services 11:00 AM Dharma School	*12* 9:00 AM BWA/ Marylyn Ozawa dance practice/ Sangha Hall 7:00 PM Kendo	*13* 6:30 PM Taiko 6:30 PM Tri-City Newsletter 7:00 PM Shodo Kai	*14* 7:00 PM Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts 7:30 PM Temple Board meeting	*15* 9:00 AM Senior activity/crafts 6:30 PM Taiko	*16* ECHO DEADLINE	*17* 9:00 AM BWA meeting NSC Food prep/ Sangha Hall kitchen
18 8:30 AM Morning chanting 10:00 AM Morning Service 11:00 AM Dharma School 12:00 PM Taiko 4:00 PM Memorial Service	*19* 7:00 PM 50th anniv. comm. meeting 7:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Kendo	*20* 6:30 PM Taiko 7:00 PM Nakayoshi Gakko meeting 7:00 PM Shodo Kai	*21* 7:00 PM Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	*22* 9:00 AM Senior activity/crafts/ Casino Day 6:30 PM Taiko Echo	*23* FDSTLConference/ Southern	*24* 9:00 AM NSC/ Sangha Hall kitchen FDSTL Conference/ Southern
25 8:30 AM Morning chanting 10:00 AM Morning Service 12:00 PM Taiko 11:00 AM Ice Cream Social	*26* 6:30 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Kendo	*27* 6:30 PM Taiko 7:00 PM Shodo Kai 7:30 PM 50th anniv. album meeting	*28* 5:00 PM Re-Employment Support Group 7:00 PM Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts 7:30 PM Bazaar meeting	*29* 9:00 AM Senior activity/crafts 6:30 PM Taiko	*30*	

Updated 3/16/2010 (events subject to change)

Mountain View Buddhist Temple

Religious Planning Committee Report—March/April Services

March 28th 10:00 AM—Girl Scout Sunday (Chaired by the Girl Scouts)

O-asaji (Early Morning Chanting 8:30 AM) Dharma School (11:00 AM)

Adult discussion (Buddhist Funeral Traditions and Rituals) to follow the service

April 4th 10:00 AM—Shotsuki Hoyo (Chaired by 5th/6th Grade)

O-asaji (Early Morning Chanting 8:30 AM) Dharma School (11:00 AM)

April 11th 10:00 AM—Hanamatsuri/Hatsumairi (Chaired by the Fuji Club)

O-asaji (Early Morning Chanting 8:30 AM) Dharma School (11:00 AM)

Hanamatsuri Luncheon and Program, organized by the Dharma School (12:00 PM)

April 18th 10:00 AM (Chaired by the 3rd Grade)

O-asaji (Early Morning Chanting 8:30 AM) Dharma School (11:00 AM)

Adult discussion (MVBT Funeral Procedures and Traditions) to follow the service

April 25th 10:00 AM (Chaired by the 4th Grade)

O-asaji (Early Morning Chanting 8:30 AM) NO Dharma School

FDSTL Teacher's Conference

Ice Cream Social, held by 7th & 8th graders following service.

What Do These Icons Mean?

In an effort to consolidate information within the Echo as well provide more information on services, the following icons indicate various activities for Sunday Services:

Shotsuki Hoyo Service

O-asaji (Morning Chanting)—8:30 AM

Adult Discussion—11:00 AM

Dharma School—11:00 AM

Upcoming MVBT Events

Graduating High School Seniors Speaking at Services
May 2nd, June 2nd & June 6th

At each of these service, two students of our graduating high school seniors will speak to the Sangha. Please come out to support them and to hear their thoughtful, moving and entertaining speeches.

Fall Ohigan Seminar—Saturday, October 23rd

Our guest speaker will be Rev. Harry Bridge from the Buddhist Church of Oakland.

Stone Soup (Cont'd from Page 1)

"Why?" asked the young disciple.

"To make **stone soup**," replied his master.

"I have never heard of such a thing. How will this help this village?"

The wise old monk answered, "You'll see."

After starting the fire, the master filled a small tin pot with water. Just then a little girl who had been cautiously watching came over and asked the monks what they were doing.

"We are making stone soup," the monk answered, "but we need just the right kind of stones so it will have a delicious taste. These stones have to be smooth and round."

"I'll help look for them," the girl enthusiastically volunteered. Then, they searched all over the village town square until they found the right kind of stones, and promptly put them into the pot of hot water.

"Hmm," thought the old monk, "by putting all of these lovely these stones into this very small pot, I'm afraid we won't make much soup."

"My mother has a bigger pot. I will ask her for it." And off she ran.

When her mother asked what she was doing, the young girl explained that the monks were making stone soup and needed a bigger pot.

The mother thought, "Stone Soup? I have never heard of such a thing. How it is made?" and she followed her daughter carrying the biggest pot she could find. As the monks tended the bigger pot of water and stones, smoke drifted upward. One by one, the villagers became curious and came to see what was going on.

The monk remarked, "Stone soup is almost done, but it would be better if we had some salt and pepper."

"I have some at home, I will go and get them," another villager said and dashed off.

"The last time I had stone soup, it was so good because of the carrots that were in it," the wise monk reminisced.

"I just harvested carrots from my garden this morning," another villager offered. "You can have a few." The villager came back with a basketful of carrots and to add to the pot.

"Oh, the **carrots** will add a lot of flavor, but so would some onions," coaxed the wise old monk. Another villager brought back some onions and put them in the pot.

And now the aroma of the soup filled the air. All the villagers had gathered around the pot. As each one of them found out what the monks were making, they all volunteered to add something to the pot.

One woman brought mushrooms. Another brought cabbage. Someone added spices. And as the air filled with this delicious smell, the villagers began to think of other things that would accompany the soup like dumplings, noodles, tofu, tea, and cakes for dessert.

It soon grew to be a big feast and all the villagers had a great time. They sang, danced, and told jokes but most of all, they

Stone Soup (Cont'd from Page 4)

talked to one another. The villagers remarked that it had been too long since they enjoyed themselves together. And it all happened because they made stone soup together.

As many of you are well aware, the Coast District temples just finished hosting the Buddhist Churches of America's 750th Memorial Observance for Shinran Shonin. It was a grand but daunting event. There were about 1,000 people for the Saturday afternoon Opening Service and symposium; 800 attended the Saturday night banquet and 1,500 attending the Sunday morning Closing Music Service. Our district is small considering that we are made up of the San Jose Betsuin, Watsonville, Salinas, Monterey and Mountain View temples. To plan and execute the 750th services and the BCA National Council meetings involved the coordinated efforts of countless people.

I have only heard positive comments regarding to our participation in this almost weeklong event. We were well represented. Highlighted are:

Haley Sugimoto of the YBA gave an emotional and heart tugging Dharma Message to the 250+ temple representatives and ministers attending the National Council meeting on Saturday morning.

Devon Matsumoto and Hayley Arima, two of eight Dharma School students who walked the center aisle in front of the 1,500 people to bring Osonae (Food offerings) for the Sunday morning 750th Closing ceremony. They did a great job bowing and not dropping a single item.

Curtis Koyama of the YBA read a poem and sang in the Sunday Music Program.

Mike Inouye kept the program rolling as MC for the Saturday Banquet. Mike, with his father-in-law, Richard Endo sparked a mini-fund raiser among the banquet diners and raised $9,000 for the benefit of the BCA's 750th Memorial Project, the Jodo Shinshu Center.

Carol Harbin one of our Dharma School teachers was the Service Chairperson for the Sunday Morning 750th Closing service. She added a wonderful sense of grace and eloquence in front of the 1,500 attendees.

Our members, led by **Ron Murata and Russ Nakano** did a wonderful job organizing the registration duties and banquet seating arrangements for all attendees. They spent countless hours getting nametags ready, setting the banquet seating assignments, stuffing the registration materials, and signing in the delegates.

I heard many compliments about the food provided by the many MVBT members from the BWA, Dharma School, YBA, and ABA for the Friday Hospitality Suite. A couple hundred people must have passed through that evening and there was still so much food and drink left over. And most of all, I saw many of our members including our Dharma school children and YBA attending the Saturday Symposium and Sunday service.

We have much to be proud of in our members in helping make this event memorable. Often, we are faced with difficult situations. Facing these tasks as individuals, they may seem insurmountable. However, if we each take a portion as all the villagers did for stone soup, tasks become doable. Not once did I hear any complaints from our members.

In Japanese, there is a wonderful expression, okage-sama de. O is an honorific meaning your. Kage means shadow or shade. De means because of.

おかげさまで

Stone Soup (Cont'd from Page 5)

So the meaning of okage-sama de is "Because of your shadow, (I can rest from the hot sun)." In other words, it is an expression that acknowledges all the help and support that is given by others so that we can live and accomplish whatever our life's tasks are.

It is the recognition of one of the fundamental principles that the Buddha emphasized as "All life is interconnected."

Because of Stone Soup, the villagers enjoyed a delicious soup together. Because of all of you, we gathered in a grand and memorable fashion truly expressing a heart of gratitude and Nembutsu in honor and memory of Shinran Shonin.

Gassho,

Rev. Dean

Our Temple's Reputation Keeps Growing (Cont'd from Page 1)

Revered Koyama was one of the lead ministers organizing all the services held at the Fairmont Hotel. He and the other Coast District ministers turned the Imperial Ball room into a place of worship.

Ron Murata and Russ Nakano were in charge of registration. Over 1,200 people attended Saturday's service and symposium; 750 people at Saturday's banquet and over 1,400 people at Sunday's service. "Emmy Award winning" emcee **Mike Inouye** and his sidekick **Rich Endo** entertained all at the Banquet

Mountain View Temple along with Watsonville Temple members hosted the Hospitality room Friday night. As usual Temple members do what they do best, provided the delicious food and in abundance.

Saturday the YBA leaders from different temples provided our morning service leading us in chanting and gave our Dharma talk. Our own **Haley Sugimoto** addressed hundreds of delegates and ministers with her Dharma talk. I don't think there was a dry eye in the audience. We are so proud of Haley, she is one of our future leaders but its just another example of the type of people we have here at Mountain View Buddhist Temple.

Temple members were stepping up in so many ways. **Richard Endo** who is the BCA National Treasurer which is just a daunting task. **Carol Harbin** who emceed the Sunday Service. **Haley Arima and Devon Matsumoto** participated in the Osonae part of the service. **Curtis Koyama** was part of the musical program. There were countless others through out the 5 days of the conference like our ABA and BWA group who were behind the scenes supplying the people power for Ron and Russ. **Bob Imai and John Arima** helping Reverend Bridge move all the music equipment. It goes on and on. Even our own **Shigeru Tashiro** was honored for the Chidori Band's contribution to the BCA.

It was a very smooth running BCA National meeting, Symposium, and Spectacular Sunday Service. Mountain View played a major role from our Reverend Koyama to our temple members. When you see these people tell them how much you appreciate what they do for us.

Oh it's good to be a Mountain View Buddhist Temple member we have a great reputation!

In Gassho,

Glenn Kitasoe

Support the BWA Fundraiser—April 11, 2010

CD BWL CONFERENCE
Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple—March 27, 2010

PEACE & TRANQUILITY—ANNON is the theme, and the conference will feature keynote speaker **Reverend Patricia Kanaya Usuki** of the San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple .

Rev Koyama and 28 members will attend this conference. The bus will leave MVBT at 7:30AM, so please meet at 7:00 AM.

Registration: 9:00—10:00 AM.
Service: 10:00 AM.

Workshops and discussions will follow. Lunch will be provided. Closing service will conclude the conference at approximately 3:00 PM. Bus will return to MVBT around 5:00 PM.

Mitsue Fukuda (650) 948-5759 or Sumi Uyeda (408) 736-5141 for reservations.

MANJU FUNDRAISER
April 11, 2010 (Hanamatsuri)
Once again, BWA will depend on and ask for everyone's generous support and help.

HELP NEEDED:
Wednesday, April 7, 2010
1:00 PM—'an' ball shaping
Thursday, April 8, 2010
8:00 AM—manju making

SPECIAL THANK YOU
To the following four additional members (7 names in previous ECHO) who contributed food for the Hospitality Room at the BCA National Conference in San Jose: **Toshiko Kawamoto, Sylvia Nara, Karen Sakae, Joyce Tamaru.**

DONATIONS
Gratefully Acknowledged

June Yusa
In appreciation ($20)

For Sangha Hall kitchen
(6 new mixing bowls)

NEXT MEETING
April 17, 2010
3rd Saturday, 9:00 AM

Buddhist Women's Association

BWA
Manju Fundraiser

$5.00 per bag
April 11, 2010

Other Buddhist Education Opportunities—Center for Buddhist Education

TechnoBuddha Evolution 2010

The CBE will be sponsoring "TechnoBuddha Evolution 2010" on ***April 16-18*** at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley. This is a networking and reconnecting seminar for 21-39 year olds.

Crossing over to Shin Buddhism

On ***May 14-16*** at the JSC, the CBE will be holding "Crossing Over to Shin Buddhism", a seminar for those coming from a non-Jodo Shinshu background. The guest speaker will be Rev. Harry Bridge from the Oakland Buddhist Church. Panel discussions and interactive workshops will help participants develop stronger foundations in Shin Buddhist approaches to life. Registration deadline is April 10.

CBE 500 Club

This is a $50,000 fundraising effort so the CBE can cover their 2010 operating expenses. The goal is to get 500 BCA members to donate $10 per month for one year. The CBE fiscal year is from April 2010 to March 2011. While this is a total of $60,000, there are charges if people choose to use the PayPal option available through the BCA website, so going over $50,000 will help to cover those PayPal and any other additional costs. ***Please note this is different from our MVBT 150 Club.*** You won't be getting any money back from the CBE 500 Club. (For more information about the MVBT 150 Club, please talk to your Zone Chairman.)

To register

for a

JSC event,

please visit

www.bcasites.net/

Reno Trip and Chicken Teriyaki Fundraiser Coming Up!

A huge thank you to **Ron & Carolyn Murata and Russ & Judy Nakano** for all their work for the Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial.

They organized and worked the registration for the entire four day affair for over 700 participants. In addition they organized the hospitality suite for Friday evening coordinating with Watsonville Temple.

Also thanks to the all the ABA members who helped with registration and all those MBVT members for their generous donation of food & drinks for Friday night. It was truly appreciated by all!!!

ABA Reno Trip

April 25-26, 2010. If interested call Aiko Sugimoto to find out if there is any space available.

Chicken Teriyaki Fundraiser

May 15, 2010

ABA is in charge of the 12-4pm cooking shift. Please contact Dennis Tsukagawa to sign up.

SAVE THE DATE:

Sat. Oct.16, 2010

ABA will host their second dance. The first one was great. Same great band! What will the encore be like? Be sure to find out. Remember save Sat. Oct. 16, 2010!!!

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Shotsuki Hoyo (Monthly Memorial Service)

The *Shotsuki* (Monthly Memorial) Services are conducted and sponsored by the temple in memory of the past members who have passed away during a given month. It is not meant to be a substitute for families to observe their Family Memorial Service for their loved ones. The *Shotsuki* loved ones are:

Harry Fujii
Shigeru Fujii
Ichihei Furusho
Juzaburo Furuzawa
Rev. Russell Hamada
Tanejiro Hirano
Dorothy Horino
Robert Hoshida
June Ichikawa
Toshiko Ikebe
Tojiro Ishimaru
Shigehito Kashima
Akira Kato
Hatsuye Kato
Setsuo Kuboyama
Kazuko Makishima
Tokiyo Maruyama
Ryu Masaki
Kiwa Matsuba
Ryuichi Miyamoto
Emi Morishima
Fuji Nakano
Jishichiro Nakano
Kenjiro Nakashima
Henry Nishimura
George Omori
Ochiyo Omori
Junpei Ozawa
Henry Ryu
Margaret Sakino
James Sakuragi
Akiko Satake
Hiram Sera
George Shimamoto
Tom Shimoguchi
John Shinseki
Taichiro Sugimoto
Jeffrey Swartwood
Ko Tachibana
Amy Takaki
David Takegami
Koichi Yamashita
Tsune Yonemoto
Tsuneno Yoshida

If a name has been inadvertently left off or you would like to add a family member to the Mountain View Buddhist Temple list of *Shotsuki* names, please contact Rev. Koyama

E-mail **dkoyama@comcast.net**
Phone (Temple Office) **650 964-9426**

April

Monthly

Memorial

Service

Sunday
April 4th
10:00 am

Next 50th Anniversary Meetings
April 19th & May 17th, 7:00 PM

Mark these dates on your calendar

All affiliated organizations—please send one of your representatives to this important meeting to get all the vital information and offer input. Important dates, activities, guest lists are being finalized.

Please attend.

Senior Trips and Casino Day Coming Up!

Senior Activities For April & May

April 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th
Normal Senior Activity & Craft. 9:00 AM—12:00 Noon. (Thurs)

March 31st—Senior Trip
We will take a trip up to the Sierra Foothill/Daffodil Hill and staying at the Harrah's Casino.

Leave the Temple March 31st at 7:00AM to go to Angel's Camp History Museum, and then continuing onto Ironstone Vineyards, Murphys. Wine tasting and a hosted lunch is included. We move on to Daffodil Hill in Sutter Creek, an awesome site of 30,000 blooming daffodils and other wildlife.

Our final stop will be at Harrah's, Lake Tahoe. We will depart Lake Tahoe Thursday at 1:00PM and return Mountain View at approximately 6:00PM.

April 22nd—Casino Day
We will again have Casino Day with Dennis Tsukagawa and his group showing us a fun day playing Blackjack, Craps, Roulette and Pai Gow. Earn points and win prizes.

Activity & Craft—9:00-11:00 AM
Lunch—11:00-11:45 AM
Casino—11:45AM-2:30PM
Prize Drawing—2:30-3:00PM
Everyone is welcome to join us.

May 19th/20th—Reno Trip
First stop at the Nugget then overnight lodging at Silver Legacy. May 20th, Cal Neva, then on to Boomtown.

Cost:
$72./person, double occupancy
Add $26.00 for single occupancy.
Call Chuck Uyeda

How did the Senior Activity Program Begin?
It all started in February 2002 and the original committee members—**Yas Shimoguchi, Allan Nara, Chuck Uyeda, Amy Imai and Miyo Takegami and Richard Endo, Aiko Sugimoto** joined a year later. When Aiko became President Elect, it opened the door to the Craft Program joining the existing Activity Program, with the support from the original committee members. On May 5, 2005, the Senior Craft Program started.

Today it is very successful with about 55 ladies and men enjoying each others' company weekly, sharing ideas. Also making crafts supporting our bazaar, boutique and the many fund raisers. We welcome anyone that wishes to join us.

We want to express our sincere gratitude for the many monetary and material donations that we continue to receive. The proceeds are used to supplement lunches, trips and special activities that are planned during the year. These donations enhance the operation of our program.

ありがとう

10 YBA Members Attend 750th Memorial Closing Service

YBA sent 10 members to the 750th Shinran Shonin Memorial closing service on 2/28/10. **Curtis Koyama** was a part of the music program, reciting a poem and singing a song with other Dharma School students from other temples.

We want to also thank the following families for their donation of food for the conference hospitality suite: **Hamada, Schindler, Howard, Tahara, and Okuno Families.**

We are starting to plan our Coast District YBL Conference to be held in March or April 2011 and are gearing up for our Mother's Day Brunch.

In Gassho,

Haley Sugimoto
YBA President 2009-2010

Volume 49 Number 4

Are You Kidding Me... 2010 Bazaar Planning Already!

Yes, no joke, it's that time of the year again for us to start thinking about the biggest fundraiser here at MVBT.

The 2010 Obon Festival & Bazaar will be held on July 17-18, 2010. Please mark this very important event marked on your calendars.

This year is Zone 12's year to chair the event and we are asking for everyone's kind support as always.

We are looking for volunteers to lead two booths. If you are interested in chairing either the Tempura booth or California Roll booth, please let us know. Both booths have volunteers willing to help and just need a leader to guide them through the weekend. No prior experience is required and training will be provided.

Our first Bazaar planning meeting will be held on **Wednesday April 28 at 7:30PM**. All booth chairs or their designate should attend this meeting. Subsequent meetings will be held on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:30PM.

Namu Amida Butsu,

Ken Nakano &
Doug Sawamura

2010 Bazaar Co-chairs

Club 150 News

Congratulations to the March, 2010, 150 CLUB winners: **Joyce Tamaru**.

There are 9 more monthly drawings plus the December bonus drawing.

Thank you all for participating in the 2010, 150 Club.

Toban/Revised Echo Schedule

	Toban	Echo	Article Deadline
APR	Zones 6 & 7	Apr 22	Apr 16
MAY	Zones 8 & 9	May 13	May 7
JUNE	Zones 10 & 11	June 17	June 11

Please note the revised article deadline, printing dates and email submission process. This is provide time to layout in the new format. Thank you.

Email all articles to echo@mvbuddhisttemple.org

Turning About and Entering the Three Vows

The following is from the JSCC Jodo Shinshu I section. As always, I strongly encourage anyone who is interested to sign up for the JSCC.

Question:
Reflect on Shinran Shonin's religious path, as expressed in his passage of "turning about and entering the three Vows."

John's Response:
For Shinran "turning about and entering the three Vows", he refers to the 18th, 19th and 20th Vows declared by Bodhisattva Dharmakara in the Larger Sutra. These three Vows cause birth in the Pure Land of all sentient beings.

The 18th Vow is the Primal Vow and describes how the Other Power of Amida Buddha ensures all sentient beings of birth in the Pure Land. The 19th Vow describes achieving birth in the Pure Land through practices of Self Power and the 20th Vow describes achieving birth in the Pure Land through recitation of the Nembutsu.

In "*The Three Pure Land Sutras,*" Dr. Hisao Inagaki explains how Shinran organized the three Vows relative to the three Pure Land sutras.

"(a) The 18th Vow: The Other Power teaching fully expounded in the Larger Sutra

(b) The 19th Vow: The meditative and non-meditative practices for birth presented in the Contemplation Sutra

(c) The 20th Vow: Concentration on the nembutsu practice as shown in the Smaller Sutra

Followers of the 18th Vow will directly attain birth in the True Land of Recompense and realize Enlightenment, but followers of the 19th and 20th Vows must remain in the Transformed Land until their attachments and doubts have been exhausted and thus attain the true Pure Land."

Comparing the three Pure Land Sutras, one sees distinct messages associated with the Vows with which they align, but all include a common implicit message of the Other Power of the 18th Vow. If we reflect on Shinran's religious path, we can see how it also aligns with these three Vows.

When Shinran began study on Mt. Hiei, his practice could be represented by Sakyamuni Buddha's instructions to Queen Vaidehi in the Contemplation Sutra; practice the three acts of merit, then contemplate on Amida's Pure Land. This is analogous to the 19th Vow:

"If, when I attain Buddhahood, sentient beings in the land of the ten quarters, who awaken aspiration for Enlightenment, do various meritorious deeds and sincerely desire to be born in my land, should not, at their death, see me appear before them surrounded by a multitude of sages, may I not attain perfect Enlightenment."

While the 19th Vow explicitly expounds the practice of meritorious deeds which is primarily a practice based in Self Power, note that the aspect of Other Power is implicitly brought in based on a sincere desire to be born in the Pure Land. However, after 20 years of practice on Mt. Hiei, Shinran realized that despite his best efforts, he would never be able to use Self Power to free himself of blind passions.

At this point, Shinran descended from Mt. Hiei and instead focused on nembustu practice which can be represented by Sakyamuni Buddha's declaration to Sariputra in the Smaller Sutra; those who hear the teaching of Amida Buddha, deeply accept the Name (Namu Amida Butsu), and single-mindedly recite that Name without distraction are assured of being born in Amida Buddha's Pure Land. This is analogous to the 20th Vow:

"If, when I attain Buddhahood, sentient beings in the land of the

JSCC—Entering the Three Vows (Cont'd from Page 13)

ten quarters who, having heard my Name, concentrate their thoughts on my land, plant roots of virtue, and sincerely transfer their merits towards my land with a desire to be born there, should not eventually fulfill their aspiration, may I not attain perfect Enlightenment."

Once again we see that the 20th Vow explicitly expounds the Self Power aspect of Nembutsu practice (recitation of the Name), but the aspect of Other Power is implicitly tied in with the aspect of deeply accepting the Name.

As Shinran's religious path progressed, he realized that the explicit practice of reciting Nembutsu was still a practice based in Self Power. At this time, Shinran, through his study under Honen, developed an understanding that deep acceptance of the Primal Vow, was the only path possible for sentient beings, full of blind passions. In other words, complete entrusting in the Other Power of Amida's Primal Vow would enable him to be born in the Pure Land. Shinran realized that reciting the Nembutsu would not cause birth in the Pure Land, but rather a deep entrusting in the Other Power of Amida's Primal Vow (the realization of shinjin) is the cause of birth in the Pure Land. This makes the recitation of Nembutsu an act of appreciation of being embraced in the light and compassion of Amida's Primal Vow and being assured birth in the Pure Land. This is analogous to the 18th Vow:

"If, when I attain Buddhahood, sentient beings in the lands of the ten quarters, who sincerely and joyfully entrust themselves to me, desire to be born in my land, and call my Name even ten times, should not be born there, may I not attain perfect Enlightenment. Excluded, however, are those who commit the five graves offenses and abuse the Dharma."

We can see how this became the beginning of the final stage of Shinran's religious path. Once Shinran began his study under Honen, he began to develop his thought and study the Nembutsu practice.

In this analysis, we can see how Shinran would feel that his own religious path could be described as "turning about and entering the three Vows". Though Shinran eventually taught that one should directly take refuge in the 18th Vow, the path through these three Vows is often the path of discovery for most Jodo Shinshu followers.

"The standard pattern of conversion in Jodoshin is threefold: The 19th Vow => the 20th Vow => the 18th Vow.

General practices of Buddhism are first led into the teaching of the Pure Land meditation of the Contemplation Sutra, and the reach the teaching of the 20th Vow fully explained in the Smaller Sutra, according to which they follow the concentrated practice of the recitative nembutsu. Finally they will realize the Other Power and so arrive at the teaching of the 18th Vow. This process illustrates the *metanoia* which takes place in the mind of the Pure Land aspirant from self-power to Other Power."

It is as if Shinran's religious path has modeled the way for those who seek to understand and appreciate true and complete entrusting in the Other Power of Amida's Primal Vow.

Cited Sources:

Inagaki, Hisao. (2000). The Three Pure Land Sutras Kyoto, Dohosha Printing Co. Ltd., pp 197, 243-244.

Hatsumairi Infant Presentation—April 11, 2010

Register for Hatsumairi by March 27, 2010.

Attention New Parents

The Mountain View Buddhist Temple would like to invite you and your child to the annual Hatsumairi Service (Infant Presentation) on Hanamatsuri. These special services will be held on **Sunday, April 11, 2010 at 10:00AM.**

The ceremony is to introduce the child to the Sangha and to welcome him/her to the Dharma. The Naijin or altar symbolizes the truth that is embodied within the human experience.

Please fill out application below and mail it to the Temple by ***March 27, 2010***.

Rev. Koyama
Resident Minister

Jean H. Higa
Corresponding Secretary

At this time, all infants up to the age of 1 year are brought before the temple altar. The ceremony includes a pledge by all the parents to raise their child according to the Buddhist Teachings, as the first step in establishing a world of stability and peace of mind for their newborn infant. It is a time to share (with your child) your true hopes and aspirations and manifested in your hearts and minds

Child's Last Name _____

Child's First and Middle Name(s) _____

Birth Date _____

Mother's Name _____

Father's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** ____ **ZIP** _____

Phone _____

Email _____

It is not necessary to fill in every blank. ***Please return form by March 27, 2010.***

2010 BCA MINISTERS AND NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING and SHINRAN SHONIN 750TH MEMORIAL SYMPOSIUM AND COMMEMORATION

February 25-28, Fairmont Hotel, San Jose, CA

In gratitude to……

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Temple Affiliates: Girl Scouts, Dharma School, YBA, ABA, BWA

SPECIAL SIGNAGE VOLUNTEERS:

George Makishima-Nihongo Ray Murakami-National Council Meeting

On behalf of the BCA Registration and Hospitality Planning Committees, thank you to all the Mountain View Buddhist Temple volunteers and contributors who helped make this historic event in every way such a mammoth success! Your generosity, reliability and stamina were commendable and most appreciated. You continue to make us proud and respected as a model Temple of the BCA.

In Gassho,

Ron Murata and Russ Nakano
BCA Registration Coordinators - 2010 NCM/750th Event

Dharma School

Thank you for the following Donation

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Jodo Shinshu Center

2140 Durant Ave. Berkeley, CA. 94704

Registration $75 *Includes meals & snacks*

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may 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 4:00 PM Memorial Service
2 8:30 AM Morning chanting 10:00 AM Sunday Service/Shotsuki Hoyo Service 11:00 AM Dharma School 11:30 AM YBA meeting 12:15 PM YBA/YBA Hall 3:00 PM Tri-City Keiro Kai/Sangha Hall	3 7:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Kendo 7:30 PM Religious Planning meeting	4 6:00 PM Nakayoshi Gakko parent orientation	5 7:00 PM Boy Scouts & parents 7:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:30 PM Temple Board meeting	6 9:00 AM Senior activity/crafts 6:30 PM Taiko	7 4:30 PM Calligraphy class Echo deadline	8 9:00 AM BWA meeting 10:00 AM YBA/prep/Sangha Hall 11:00 AM Memorial Service 4:00 PM Memorial Service
9 8:00 AM YBA/Mothers day brunch/Sangha Hall lobby 8:30 AM Morning chanting 10:00 AM Sunday Service/Gotan-E/Rev Kurt Rye/Fresno 11:00 AM Dharma School 12:00 PM Taiko	10 11:00 AM Senior Activity comm. meeting 7:00 PM Kendo	11 6:30 PM Taiko 7:00 PM Shodo Kai	12 6:00 PM Chicken cleaning 7:00 PM Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	13 9:00 AM Senior activity/crafts 6:30 PM Echo 6:30 PM Taiko	14 4:30 PM Calligraphy class 5:00 PM Dharma School /manju making 7:00 PM ABA meeting/conf room & YBA Hall 7:00 PM Fuji Club	15 6:00 AM Cook chicken 9:00 AM BWA meeting 4:00 PM Memorial Service
16 4:00 AM Rice cooking 9:00 AM Chicken teriyaki/pick up 10:00 AM Sunday Service 11:00 AM Dharma School	17 7:00 PM 50th anniv. comm. meeting 7:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Kendo	18 6:30 PM Taiko 7:00 PM Nakayoshi Gakko meeting 7:00 PM Shodo Kai	19 7:00 PM Cub Scouts &Boy Scouts Senior Activity/Reno I	20 9:00 AM Senior activity/crafts 6:30 PM Taiko Senior Activity/Reno I	21 3:00 PM Girl Scouts Bridging activity/Sangha Hall	22 12:30 PM Memorial Service 1:00 PM Nakayoshi Gakko/Sangha Hall
23 10:00 AM Sunday Service 11:00 AM Dharma School 12:00 PM Taiko	24 7:00 PM Kendo	25 6:30 PM Taiko 7:00 PM Shodo Kai 7:30 PM 50th anniv. album meeting	26 7:00 PM Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts 7:30 PM Bazaar meeting 7:30 PM Tri-City Assn meeting/Echo room	27 9:00 AM Senior activity/crafts 6:30 PM Taiko	28	29 2:30 PM Wedding
30 9:30 AM Alta Mesa Memorial Park	31 MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED					

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Updated 3/12/2010 (events subject to change)

Mountain View Buddhist Temple

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Nirvana Day

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UCHIYAMA, LEO & IRENE 20

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OKUMURA, JOHN 100

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YAMANAGA, BOB & MIYO 150

Funeral Services

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ANDO, MARY 15
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HIRANO, JOANNE 200

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SAKINO, RON & LORRAINE 20
SATO, KIYOKO 15
ZABLE, CYNTHIA 20

SANO, STEPHEN & LINDAANN UYECHI 300
NAGAHIRO, JAMES & ALICE ..... ECHO 25

Hanamatsuri/Hatsumairi Service—April 11th

BWA will be holding its manju fundraiser on April 11th as well.

Mark you calendars for the graduating school senior speakers—May 2nd, June 2nd and June 6th.

You can also find a color pdf version online at: www.mvbuddhisttemple.org

In Gassho,
The Echo Staff

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